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Senate

IN CELEBRATION OF THE TENTH ANNIVERSARY OF CAB CALLOWAY SCHOOL OF THE ARTS IN WILMINGTON, DELAWARE

Mr. President, I rise today to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the Cab Calloway School of the Arts in Wilmington, the first public arts school in the State of Delaware. Since the late Cab Calloway cut the ribbon for the school's grand opening on November 23, 1992, the school has expanded from a small middle school with vocal detractors to an overwhelmingly successful experiment in public school choice, boasting an enrollment of 760 6th to 12th graders. If their first decade is any indication of what they will offer in the future, we have much to look forward to.

Cab Calloway School of the Arts works to provide young people from diverse backgrounds with intensive training in the arts and a comprehensive academic curriculum that will prepare them for success in higher education and employment. They are succeeding.

The school's halls are filled with talented faculty, skilled supervisors, and dedicated staff. Its students have been awarded numerous accolades and recognition for their art, writing, theatre, academics, vocal and band performances, as well as academics.

Cab Calloway's students continue to defy the odds, meeting or exceeding our State's standards in reading, writing and math. Last year, the school's 10th graders ranked among the very highest in the State in reading and writing comprehension. Mixing academics with freedom of expression and strong parental support has boosted their students' self-confidence and given us all something to feel good about.

When I served as Governor of Delaware, Cab Calloway's students performed, at my request, at the Hotel DuPont for the Governor's National Association. They helped me celebrate my second inauguration as Governor at the Wilmington Grand Opera House and have since been named to the Governor's School of Excellence. They continue to make me proud.

Cab Calloway School of the Arts has represented the State of Delaware at The Kennedy Center in Washington DC, and its students have performed at the Delaware Mentoring Council Celebrations in Wilmington and Dover, attended by GEN. Colin Powell.

These days I work closely with HILLARY CLINTON in the Senate.

When I brought her to tour the Cab Calloway School of the Arts in 1996, she was our First Lady, and I made sure that a tour showcasing the best of Delaware included the innovative school. We talked about the importance of school choice and the inroads made possible by a school dedicated to providing a cultural and academic experience that instills character and a greater appreciation of the arts.

As Governor of Delaware, and now as Senator, I have shared with people across America the story of Cab's success. I tell them about teachers such as Marty Lassman, who daily demonstrate unparalleled commitment and patience, the support staff that is there when needed, the students who again and again exceed expectations, and the parents and family members who understand they have an obligation to be full partners in the education of their children. Together, they serve as an inspiration and an example to communities across the country.

Delaware is a small State, but we are building a growing record of achievement in public school education. Statewide, scores have again increased in all grades and across the board in reading and math, as we begin to close the achievement gap.

Much of what we have accomplished in Delaware, and at the Cab Calloway School of the Arts, serves as a model for our Nation.

I thank the staff and students of the school, both past and present, for their efforts to create a more meaningful experience for our students, and I wish

Cab Calloway School of the Arts a very happy 10th anniversary.

I rise today to offer my full support to future generations of students and educators at Cab Calloway School of the Arts and congratulate this extraordinary school on a remarkable decade of success.